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Montana is home to many of the most outstanding seedstock herds in the United States. The intent of the Montana Sheep Directory is to provide potential buyers with an all-breed directory of Montana's finest sheep and a reference to related service providers.

The Directory was developed by the **Montana Department of Agriculture** in cooperation with the **Montana Wool Growers Association**. To assist Montana producers in expanding existing markets and reaching new markets, the Montana Sheep Directory is distributed at trade shows, fairs, stock shows and other promotional events throughout Montana, the United States, and other countries.

The primary goal of the Department of Agriculture's Marketing Program is to assist Montanans in the development and trade of our state's agricultural commodities and value-added products. Program objectives are developed using producer input to ensure that projects are beneficial to the industry.

This publication is a listing of Montana sheep producers and related service providers. The listing does not constitute an endorsement by the Montana Department of Agriculture. An independent check is recommended prior to any business arrangement considered.

This publication should not be considered as a complete listing of Montana sheep producers or service providers since only those responding and agreeing to publication are included.

Unlisted firms who wish to be included in any future edition of this publication should contact the Agriculture Marketing and Business Development Bureau of the Montana Department of Agriculture.

Agriculture Marketing and Business Development Bureau
Montana Department of Agriculture
PO Box 200201
Helena, MT 59620-0201
Phone: 406-444-2402 Fax: 406-444-9442
e-mail: agr@state.mt.us

Funding for the Montana Sheep Directory was provided by the
Montana Department of Agriculture.

Montana Wool Growers Association

The Montana Wool Growers Association (MWGA) was formed in January of 1883 at a meeting in Fort Benton. Montana territorial sheep producers saw a need for an organization to represent the wool and lamb business that was starting to flourish in the territory. The sheepmen in attendance elected Paris Gibson as its first president, the same man who would later lay out the plans for a city along the Missouri River, now called Great Falls. Gibson had come to the Montana territory to raise sheep on the rolling plains of the West.

On behalf of Montana Sheep Producers, the MWGA represents producer interests on the issues of federal land management, predatory animal control, imports of lamb and wool from foreign sheep producing countries, taxation and land use planning. The association hosts an annual ram sale in Miles City the second Thursday after Labor Day in September and their annual convention in Billings the first weekend in December each year.

MWGA is affiliated with the American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), the national organization with offices in Centennial, Colorado and Washington, D.C.

Membership is open to any Montana sheep producer with dues structured at four cents per pound of shorn wool.

Montana Wool Growers Association
President: Dick Everett, Stevensville
Vice President: Bob Lehfelt, Lavina
Executive Secretary: Bob Gilbert, Helena
7 Edwards Street
PO Box 1693
Helena, MT 59624
Phone: 406-442-1330
Fax: 406-449-8606
Email: woolymwga@aol.com
Website: www.mtsheep.org